

4 March 1950

Dr. H. M. Poppe
c/o Mrs. Wilson
1907 14th Avenue North
Seattle 2, Wash.

Dear Dr. Poppe:

I sincerely hope that you will forgive my long silence. I am of course ashamed that I have not replied to your last letter, but I hasten to explain as best I can. I hope you will see my point of view.

When I originally told you that the matter of the entry of your sons to the US should be fairly easily arranged, I had not anticipated all the subsequent troubles we would have at this end. As you know, most of us, including Mr. Offie, Mr. , and myself, were of the opinion that the business would not take more than a few weeks. This is why we reassured you so often.

Every time you wrote, I found it more and more difficult to answer with the same assurances, and indeed as the situation appeared more complex I began to feel like both a fool and a liar. Your last letter came at a time when I could see no progress being made at all. I tried to answer. In fact, I wrote several drafts, but promptly tore them all up. There was nothing to say beyond hello, and a few choice phrases about the weather. It would, I considered, have been brazen of me to regale you with unimportant and trivial news when you wanted news of our progress in effecting the entry of your sons to this country.

I therefore did not answer, hoping every day that I would find some better news. It must have seemed to you that I was rude and ungrateful. Such was by no means the case, I promise you.

By now, Mr. [] will have told you that new hope is in sight, and that we are asking our friends in Europe to help your boys. I feel again fairly confident that something will be done. I most sincerely hope so, since we are doing everything in our power to keep everyone concerned moving at a fast pace.

I am looking forward to meeting your two sons, and hope it will be soon that I have that honour. I should also like very much to see you again in the near future, and apologise in person for my delinquency.

Very sincerely yours,

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